

**INDEX OF A SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING  
FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2000**

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<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Reso./Ord. No.</u>		<u>Page(s)</u>
OB		Presentations:	
		1. Expressions of Sympathy .....	1
PH-1	C-00-50	2000/2001 Budget .....	1
PH-2		2000/2001 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District .....	30
PH-3	00-123	Fire Rescue Special Assessment .....	31

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COMMISSION  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2000**

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Mayor Naugle on the above date, City Commission Meeting Room.

Roll call showed:

Present: Commissioner Gloria F. Katz  
Commissioner Cindi Hutchinson  
Commissioner Tim Smith  
Mayor Jim Naugle

Absent: Commissioner Carlton B. Moore

Also Present: City Manager F. T. Johnson  
City Attorney Dennis E. Lyles  
City Clerk Lucy Masliah  
Sergeant at Arms Sgt. Waldman

NOTE: All items were presented by Mayor Naugle unless otherwise shown, and all those desiring to be heard were heard. Items discussed are identified by the agenda number for reference. Items not on the agenda carry the description "OB" (Other Business).

**Expression of Sympathy ..... (OB)**

Mayor Naugle offered an Expression of Sympathy, on behalf of the City Commission to the family of *Mr. Wayne Shallenberger*.

**2000/2001 Budget ..... (PH-1)**

The first public hearing was scheduled on the tentative budget of the City of Fort Lauderdale for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2000 and ending September 30, 2001. Notice of the proposed ordinance was published on August 30 and September 6, 2000.

Mayor Naugle announced that this was the first of two public hearings to be held as required by law on the millage rates for the City of Fort Lauderdale's budget for fiscal year 2000/2001. The purpose of the hearing was to receive requests and comments regarding the City's budget and tax levies, and to explain the budget and any amendments thereto. Mayor Naugle called for those who wished to be heard. The following appeared:

Mr. Terry Sharp, Assistant Finance Director, stated that for fiscal year 2000/2001 there was a calculated percentage increase in the millage rate of 8.1% over the rolled back rate of 4.6619 mills, which, by State Statute, was characterized as an 8.1% increase in property taxes. The City found this percentage increase necessary to fund the proposed budget. He stated that the proposed millage rate of 5.0415 included all ad valorem taxes except debt service and constituted the basis for the State-required advertisement concerning the budget and taxes.

Mr. Sharp reported that the proposed millage rate for debt service for the combined 1987/1992/1998 General Obligation Refunding Bonds was 0.2968, which represented an 11.06% decrease in the millage rate under the rolled-back rate of .3337. The proposed millage rate for debt service for the 1997 General Obligation Bonds was .2281, which represented a 4.56% decrease in the millage rate under the rolled-back rate of .2390.

Mr. Sharp said the purpose of this hearing was to summarize the reasons for the recommended property tax millage, and to take public comment regarding property taxes and the recommended budget. In addition, the millage rate would be tentatively approved, along with the Fire Rescue Assessment and the budget itself. He stated that the City's portion represented about 22% of the total taxes levied on personal property. Mr. Sharp pointed out that the School Board received the largest share of total property tax bills, followed by Broward County, the City, the Hospital District, the South Florida Water Management District, and the Florida Inland Navigation District.

Mr. Sharp stated that for a property with a Homestead Exemption, the most the taxes could go up was 2.7% unless the value of the property had been increased through permitted improvements. He noted that the millage rate for the City remained the same, and the property tax bill for the average \$150,000 home would be \$22.54 more than last year. Mr. Sharp reported that the all funds budget proposed amounted to \$338.8 million, and more than half of that could be attributed to the General Fund. He stated that the General Fund was the portion of the budget that was substantially funded by property taxes, while other portions of the budget were funded by Enterprise Funds. Mr. Sharp advised that the debt service budget was \$13.5 million.

Mr. Sharp pointed out that property taxes were only one of several resources, and charges for services made up the largest resource with property taxes funding only about 20% of the all funds budget. He stated that property taxes funded about a third of the General Fund budget, and the General Fund provided monies for Police, Fire-Rescue, Parks & Recreation, Street Maintenance, and other general services provided by the City.

Mr. Sharp said the proposed General Fund budget was proposed to increase by 5.5% from \$178.8 million to \$180.2 million, and the all funds budget would increase 2.4% from \$331 million to \$338.8 million. He advised that some of the reasons for the budget increase proposed included \$1.3 million for existing Parks & Recreation facilities and programs, \$600,000 to continue Police programs initially funded by grants, \$500,000 for new Park Bond facilities, and \$500,000 for public safety overtime costs.

Mr. Sharp reported that the budget also included \$400,000 for Police Dispatch and Record Systems, \$100,000 for additional Fire-Rescue communications staff, and funding for staff compensation increases as new labor agreements were ratified and the non-bargaining unit pay study was approved. He said that in addition to property taxes, increases in other fees were proposed, including a \$2 increase in the Fire-Rescue Assessment fee to \$38 per household; a 3% increase in water and sewer fees; and, a 2% increase in sanitation fees. Mr. Sharp pointed out that no increases were proposed for storm water fees or licenses and permits.

Mr. Sharp stated that there would be a second public hearing on the budget held on September 19, 2000 at 6:00 P.M. Additional information about the budget could be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, the Finance Department, all Broward County libraries, and from the City's web site.

Commissioner Smith understood there was about \$2 million being carried forward from last year's budget, and he noted that a memorandum had been distributed describing various projects which could be funded as a result. However, some projects had not yet been discussed, and he wanted the Commission to consider how that carry forward amount would be spent. Commissioner Smith also wanted to discuss lifeguards for the north beach.

Commissioner Smith believed the contentious issue this evening involved the social, cultural and promotional budget, and he suggested Mr. Sharp provide a brief explanation. Mr. Sharp distributed copies of a chart listing the organizations to which contributions would be made under the proposed budget. He stated that he had been with the City since 1988, and he believed these contributions were being made prior to that time. Mr. Sharp advised that the Economic Development Advisory Board reviewed the promotional recommendations, and the proposed budget included \$299,000 for funding community organizations. He explained that social and cultural organization recommendations were evaluated by the Community Services Board, and there was a prescribed application process for obtaining these funds, which Mr. Sharp described. He added that the Budget Advisory Board had also reviewed the proposal and recommended against funding any community organizations, preferring to redirect the \$299,000 to the Neighborhood Capital Improvements Program (NCIP).

*Mr. Larry Thompson*, First Baptist Church, regretted that this issue had escalated to this level, and he felt it illustrated the tragic state of the community, the nation, and elected leadership. He thought everyone should feel a measure of guilt over taking this time to deal with a "non issue." Mr. Thompson wondered if the Commission had been elected to satisfy the powerful and, in doing so, prolong political careers or if they were elected to lead with conviction and integrity. Mr. Thompson said that if the press was to be believed, the outcome of the budget vote had already been predetermined. He stated that the press had indicated there would be a 4 to 1 vote against funding the Boy Scouts, although no one would admit deciding prior to this meeting. Mr. Thompson hoped the Commission would not vote on something that was personally expedient rather than something that was publicly expected.

Mr. Thompson said he ministered to a congregation of 12,000, and the pressures of leadership were great, but there came a time when one had to do what was right. He wondered if the Commission's vote against funding the Boy Scouts was based on a desire to take a legal stand against discrimination, which was the "politically correct" answer. Mr. Thompson understood this portion of the budget was dedicated to the poor and under privileged and would provide a means for them to participate in this outstanding organization. He did not know how the Commission had decided on which group to discriminate against because it appeared the intent was to discriminate against impoverished children and families because the gay lobby was well organized and funded.

Mr. Thompson pointed out that the poor were not organized, nor financially strong, and they did not have the power to elect or defeat the Commission. However, they were residents of Fort Lauderdale, and the community had a responsibility in that respect. He noted that the United States Supreme Court had already indicated that the Boy Scouts of America were protected by the First Amendment. Mr. Thompson felt that if this funding was denied based solely on that opinion, it would violate the letter and the spirit of the United States Constitution.

Mr. Thompson said that if the vote went against this funding of the Boy Scouts in order to make a statement, he did not know what would happen to this organization that had been so well respected and well used for so long throughout the community. He stated that he had presented this issue to his congregation recently, and they had responded by contributing \$10,200 to the Boy Scouts of America.

*Dr. Melodie Moorehead* said she was present as a private citizen and as a 4-year member of the Community Services Board. She noted that the Board had recommended funding the Boy Scouts by majority vote. Dr. Moorehead pointed out that the County had a Human Rights ordinance that included and addressed sexual orientation. She said that she had made a point of asking the applicants for this funding if they had amended their Charters to reflect the requirements of that ordinance relating to sexual preference. Dr. Moorehead advised that the Boy Scouts had specifically assured her that everyone was eligible for service regardless of sexual orientation.

Dr. Moorehead had been pleased to learn that most of the funded organizations had amended their Charters, but the Boy Scouts had been clear that they had not done so. Therefore, she had conducted some research and learned that 30% of gay youth were at risk for suicide. Dr. Moorehead felt this was a population organizations like the Boy Scouts should embrace, but everyone had personal prejudices and biases. She said she had come here as a private citizen tonight to encourage the Commission to do the right thing. Dr. Moorehead also wondered if it was legal to contribute public money to an organization under the circumstances, and she was pleased that the private community had stepped forward to provide funds to the Boy Scouts.

*Mr. George Hunker* said he had been called a "sissy" by some boys during his youth, perhaps because of his slight stature and his voice. However, he had also been a Cub Scout and an Eagle Scout, and he had received the "God and Country" award. Mr. Hunker stated that the Boy Scouts had taught him to be fair and honorable toward others, and he did not recall his troop ever being instructed to disparage any group, including gays. He reported that he had never been condemned for his demeanor by either of the churches to which his parents belonged, and both had taught him to accept others and himself.

Mr. Hunker felt religion was a private affair, but he was concerned about the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church's condemnation of homosexuality. He had learned from various churches that one's sexuality was a private matter between an individual and God. Mr. Hunker thought some individuals were confusing homosexuality with pedophilia, although they were quite different, and any rational person knew that pedophilia was against the law and had nothing to do with adults dating adults of the same sex.

Mr. Hunker stated that the Boy Scout directors were misguided to want to exclude gays because that did not fit in with what they professed to teach – good citizenship, tolerance of all kinds of children, and acceptance of multi-cultural diversity. He said that he and his partner led orderly, normal lives, and his neighbors thought of them as the “couple down the street.” Mr. Hunker understood the Boy Scouts was a private club and could legally continue to exclude gays but, as a result, he did not feel the organization could request public resources because that was the law.

Mr. Hunker was concerned that young boys were being taught to discriminate and to fear people they need not fear. He thought that was a terrible lesson and, he believed that when the Boy Scout directors lost their public funding and their paychecks, they would reconsider this errant philosophy and follow the Boy Scout Code of Honor. Mr. Hunker thought Fort Lauderdale, by and large, enjoyed a mix of lifestyles and respected people's privacy and diversity of cultures. He hoped the City Commission would say “no” to unfounded prejudice and promote liberty and justice for all, particularly while Fort Lauderdale was in the national spotlight.

*Mr. Mark Eagle* said that no one had called him a “sissy” when he was a boy, but he was gay, and he had been a Boy Scout. He had learned a great deal about community service and volunteerism as a Boy Scout, and he had carried those lessons with him and put them to use throughout his life. Mr. Eagle thought scouting was great, but he was concerned that the Boy Scout directors had spent time and money on the exclusion of boys and leaders who were anything except heterosexual. He felt these leaders had elected to take this path of discrimination and, because it was a private organization, the Supreme Court had ruled that the organization had that right. However, he did not feel tax funds should be contributed to this private organization that discriminated, nor should taxpayer-funded facilities be utilized. Mr. Eagle stated that he did not want to change anyone's views or opinions about how they raised their children. He felt they should do as they wished, but not with his tax dollars.

Mr. Eagle thought it was unfortunate for the Boy Scouts that religious zealots were using this issue as another way of advancing a message of hate and exclusion. He was glad that one church had stepped up to provide funding, but he did not feel it should be done through the City Commission since it sent the wrong kind of message. Mr. Eagle believed the law in Broward County was clear, and organizations that discriminated could not obtain public money.

*Mr. Chris Gorbey* said he was a former Boy Scout, and his son was a Boy Scout. He felt the Boy Scouts was a wonderful, time-tested organization, and it was amazing it had functioned so well for so long without having to deal with this kind of situation. Mr. Gorbey stated that the program being considered for funding was for disabled and disadvantaged people and kids. He thought it was amazing this would be used so people could get what they wanted even if it meant that poor, black children would suffer as a result.

Mr. Gorbey believed the Supreme Court had made it clear that private organizations had the right to associate freely, and that was part of America's Constitution. Although tolerance seemed important, it appeared there was no tolerance for those who did not believe the same things as those believed by the homosexual community. Mr. Gorbey expressed his support for the Boy Scouts, which provided a public service, and he hoped the Commission would do the same.

*Mr. David Caton*, Executive Director of the Florida Family Association, stated that there were 65 counties in Florida and over 350 cities, and he did not believe they would stop funding the Boy Scouts of America. He submitted a column written by William D. Rasberry indicating that punishing thought could not be a good idea. Mr. Rasberry had concluded that hate crime legislation had turned out to be an attempt at thought control.

Mr. Caton said he was trying to preserve moral decency within the Boy Scouts of America. The fact was that the Girl Scouts of America did not allow males to be in tents with girls because they might be sexually attracted. He did not see why people did not understand the reasons why males who were sexually attracted to other males might present similar problems in the Boy Scouts. He advised that the United States military had a "don't ask, don't tell" policy, and he thought that what was good for the men of America was good for the boys of America as well. Mr. Caton urged the Commission to fund the Boy Scouts.

*Mr. Joe Martino* felt that those with a homosexual agenda and lifestyle were trying to impose their views and way of life on the Boy Scouts, and he thought they were the ones who were being intolerant. He pointed out that the Boy Scouts had every right to use the streets, parks and other public amenities just as those with alternative lifestyles did. Mr. Martino did not consider homosexuality acceptable behavior. In fact, he considered it lewd and lascivious, and some people considered it a religious issue. Nevertheless, America embraced a separation between church and state, but sodomy was against the laws of the State of Florida. Mr. Martino hoped the Commission would fund the Boy Scouts.

*Ms. Janet Folger*, Director of the Center for Reclaiming America, which was an outreach of Coral Ridge Ministries that taught God's standards and God's love and was founded by Dr. D. James Kennedy. She said she was present to support the Boy Scouts of America, freedom of speech, freedom of association, the poor, and the disabled. She advised that the Supreme Court of the United States had ruled clearly on this issue, and the Boy Scouts of America was a private organization that had the right to its own beliefs and standards. Ms. Folger pointed out that this was one of the most respected organizations in this nation and had been over 100 years.

Ms. Folger said she had heard homosexual activists claim for years that they wanted to live and let live and be left alone to practice their lifestyles in accordance with their beliefs. Yet, now they were lobbying to discriminate against another organization because it wanted to practice in accordance with its beliefs. Ms. Folger noted that today's target was the Boys Scouts, but she wondered about tomorrow's targets, such as Christian day care centers, the Salvation Army, churches and synagogues. She felt that because the Boy Scouts wanted the same freedom to practice in accordance with their beliefs, the City was now considering punishment by eliminating funding. Ms. Folger believed this would affect the poor, the disabled, and the children of Fort Lauderdale, and the Learning for Life Program being considered for funding helped students and those with special needs within the community. It taught non-controversial subjects such as safety, manners, honesty, responsibility and self-discipline. Ms. Folger hoped the Commission would not discriminate against the Scouts by stripping these funds.

*Ms. Carol Moran*, President of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, stated that no one was asking anyone to accept the homosexual lifestyle. She did not care what anyone did in his or her bedrooms, but the City had adopted an ordinance that prohibited the contribution of public funds to any organization that excluded any human beings. Ms. Moran advised that this was not an issue of homosexuals v. Boy Scouts. In fact, she thought it was a great organization, and she had been a Girl Scout herself. She understood the Boy Scouts considered itself a private organization, and she felt it should be supported by its members. Ms. Moran felt the issue was one of public money being spent on a private organization. She advised that if gay organizations wanted to exclude "straights," she would fight that as well, and the law prevented use of public funds by organizations that discriminated. Ms. Moran pointed out that the Boy Scouts had raised \$10,200 tonight from the private sector, and she felt that was the appropriate funding source because she did not want to give any of her money to any organization that excluded any human being.

*Mr. Rich DeFilippo* said he supported the Boy Scouts, and he remembered learning about character, honesty and decency when he was a Cub Scout. He had also learned about nature and the outdoors, and how to respect and protect the environment. Mr. DeFilippo advised that he had relied heavily on his Scout leaders and mentors, and he could understand why the Boy Scouts were concerned about allowing openly homosexual men lead and mentor young boys. If he were a father, he would not allow his daughters to camp with heterosexual men, and he saw no reason to punish the Scouts for applying the same common sense logic. Mr. DeFilippo stated that the program had been helping disabled and under privileged children in this community for years, and he urged the Commission to continue its support.

*Mr. Mark LaFontaine* said he had lived in Broward County since 1973, and he was an Eagle Scout. He stated that during 13 years with the Scouts, he had served as a role model to other Scouts through several leadership positions including Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. His sexuality had never been a question and, when he had attained the rank of Eagle Scout, he had been considered an excellent role model. Mr. LaFontaine still considered himself a good role model as a businessman and as a college educator.

Mr. LaFontaine stated that he carried the beliefs and values instilled in him through Scouting and, at no point in time, had any of those values included discrimination, bigotry, or disrespect for any sector of the community. However, Scouting had taught him to stand up for what he believed was right. Mr. LaFontaine stated that the argument that homosexuals could not be good role models as troop leaders was blatantly discriminatory, and the insinuation that he might be a pedophile because he was a gay man, was extremely insulting and a complete fabrication of the religious right who sought to spread fear among the general populace.

Mr. LaFontaine pointed out that the Scout Oath, in addition to calling for boys to be morally straight, also called for boys to be physically strong and mentally awake. He wondered if that meant that overweight and physically disabled boys and adults would be targeted next, followed by those with mental deficiencies. Mr. LaFontaine said he had contacted the national office of the Boy Scouts of America and been told that the decision to exclude gays as leaders had been a joint effort with the organization's charter sponsors – the churches and schools. He noted that the Scout Oath, under morally straight, read "you live and act and speak in ways that marked you as a boy who would grow up to be a man of good character." "You are honest, clean in speech and actions, as in deeds, thoughtful of the rights of others and faithful to your religious beliefs." Further, the Oath stated that Scouts respected the beliefs of others.



Mr. LaFontaine said that as a Scout, he had been taught that sacrifices were necessary in life in order to achieve goals. However, by coming forward over the past few days to vocalized, he had been informed he was in jeopardy of losing his rank. He stated that this was a sacrifice he was willing to make if need be, for this was an achievement that could not be stripped by anyone. Mr. LaFontaine pointed out Scouts did their duty to God and country by being good citizens, and living by the laws and customs of this nation. He felt the loss of public funding was another sacrifice and consequence of the actions of the Boy Scout leaders, and it was a sacrifice they had to endure due to its discriminatory practices. Mr. LaFontaine challenged Boy Scout troops throughout the country to rethink the meaning of the Boy Scout Oath and Law and to take a stand as brave Scouts to make a difference. He felt Scouting should be about brotherhood rather than bigotry.

*Mr. Greg Hoadley* said he had been a Boy Scout, and he was opposed to eliminating this funding. He felt this was nothing but a politically correct attack on a group that had benefited boys of all ages for nearly a century. He did not think it was proper for anyone to force his or her morality on the Boy Scouts, and the U.S. Supreme Court had indicated that this issue had already been legally settled. Mr. Hoadley felt this was a cheap shot at the Boy Scouts through a political vendetta, and he urged the Commission to continue to fund the Boy Scouts and get on with the real business of the City.

*Mr. Warren Scott* stated that he had been involved in Scouting for many years, as had his entire family. When he was a Scoutmaster, he had been a confidant of many Scouts, especially those with single parents. He had found confidentiality to be a critical issue, and he agreed with the Supreme Court's decision. Mr. Scott hoped the Commission would support this funding because the boys needed this organization.

*Mr. Phillip Haslam* supported funding for the Boy Scouts. He said that he had also been a Scout, and he was concerned about impressionable, vulnerable young boys trying to learn courage, integrity and self-esteem. As a teenager, Mr. Haslam said he had been molested by a single, 40-year-old man who was held in great regard within the community. He had been a man of authority, and he had been encouraged to emulate him. Due to his position of authority and esteem, Mr. Haslam had shared some private details of his struggle as an adolescent, not knowing that this trust would be violated.

Mr. Haslam said that this individual had impacted his life deeply, resulting in his homosexuality, although he was now finding a process to leave that behind. He did not favor having homosexual Scout leaders, and he could not stand by and allow another safety net to be "cut away" from these boys in clear conscience. Mr. Haslam hoped the Commission would allow this protection to stay in place and to support this worthy organization, which instilled pride and honor in the next generation.

*Mr. Ed Nicholas* thought Mr. Haslam had imparted a powerful message, and he had also become a Cub Scout at the age of 6 or 7. Even at that young age, Mr. Nicholas had known he was different from the other boys, and he had not stayed in Scouting because he had not felt welcome even then. He stated that gay boys felt isolated and alone, and it had been mentioned earlier that 30% of teen suicides related to sexual identity. Mr. Nicholas thought it would have been a wonderful service to him if there had been a well-adjusted, upright gay citizen as a leader. He pointed out that these individuals were not pedophiles or criminals and did not want to have sex with children. Mr. Nicholas favored "defunding" the Boy Scouts of America.

*Mr. Andrew Piccolo* advised that he was a volunteer youth worker for Calvary Chapel, and he also worked for a nationwide crisis hotline. As such, he was absolutely opposed to the City cutting its funding of the Boy Scouts. He pointed out that this organization had helped countless youth for more years than most people had been alive. Mr. Piccolo did not think the Commission wanted to be known as a group that cut funding to 6.2 million young people who would be the future leaders of this country. He felt the Boy Scouts gave boys a good chance in life, and a good moral environment. It kept them off the streets and out of gangs, and he did not want Fort Lauderdale to be known as an "anti-self-respect, anti-opportunity, and anti-educational" community. Mr. Piccolo thought less funding meant fewer Boys Scouts and more boys seeking affiliation with other organizations, such as gangs.

*Mr. Rob Allen*, resident of Fort Lauderdale and Executive Pastor of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, said he was not here to discuss the Boy Scouts or sexuality. He did not feel this was a matter of discrimination. Mr. Allen pointed out that whenever the City Commission adopted a zoning law or allocated scarce resources, they were discriminating against someone. He stated that he was here to talk about children.

Mr. Allen stated that this issue involved a community service to children, especially those with special needs. It was a service being provided so these children could learn basic life skills. He understood the City could not meet all of its citizens' needs, and there was a necessity for these types of service organizations. He hoped the Commission would consider what it would be like if they had sons or friends who needed these services. Mr. Allen was grateful there were people who were willing to volunteer their time to provide these services.

*Mr. Mark D. Collymore* supported the Boy Scouts. He noted that a lot of people felt the Boy Scouts were not tolerant of the gay community, but it appeared the gay community was intolerant of the Boy Scouts. Mr. Collymore was outraged as a minority member that people would attempt to use the delicate issue of race to further an agenda. He did not think anyone would hire a male for a female model position, and he did not believe anyone would want his or her daughters to camp out overnight with a male leader. By the same token, Mr. Collymore did not think the parents of Boy Scouts should be forced to place their sons in potential danger.

*Mr. Leo Valencia* said he lived in Parkland, but he worked and attended church in Fort Lauderdale. He stated that the Boy Scouts of America had been incorporated in 1910, and its purpose was to provide an educational program for boys and young adults in order to build character, train in the responsibility of citizenship participation, and to develop personal fitness. Historically, the Boy Scouts had been a pillar of American society, symbolizing honesty, integrity, character, honor, responsibility and reverence. Sadly, these were attributes Mr. Valencia believed were rapidly disappearing from society today, and it was the responsibility of government to preserve and protect the people, so it was vital that government support the virtues personified by the Boy Scouts. He felt it would be a travesty for the County and the City to withdraw funds intended to assist handicapped children.

*Ms. Chris Theodore* advised that she was a mother and resident of Fort Lauderdale, and she supposed she was one of the “religious zealots” mentioned earlier. As such, she loved everyone, but she felt there was a difference between people and their behaviors. Ms. Theodore hoped the Commission would not cut funding for a program that taught disadvantaged children about self-respect, to respect others, and to respect the environment. She stated that most of these programs were predominantly provided in African-American areas and in some of the highest crime areas in Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Theodore did not understand the logic of hurting poor children because an extreme group of radical homosexuals chose to use the Commission as a conduit for retaliation over the Supreme Court ruling.

*Mr. Lee Eaton* was amazed that everyone was here tonight discussing this issue. He pointed out that the Boy Scouts had done a tremendous amount of good for a very long time, and it was clear to most people that parents had a right to determine who would be around their children. He found it unbelievable that the Boy Scouts were being turned into “public enemy number 1.” Mr. Eaton agreed the policy of the Scouts did discriminate between good behavior and bad behavior. He stated that good character extended to the financial, physical, personal, and sexual aspects of everyone’s lives. Mr. Eaton believed sexual behavior revealed a lot about character.

Mr. Eaton did not think it was hateful or unlawful to want to associate with people who believed that sex should be reserved for one woman and one man within the marital relationship. When parents registered their sons to be Scouts, he did not feel they should have to be concerned about them becoming “enemies of the state.” He hoped the Commission would support parents and children rather than homosexual activists. It appeared, however, that instead of recognizing the good work of the Scouts in reaching poor and fatherless children, the Commission seemed to be considering stepping up the attack on the Boy Scouts of America. More than any other matter, Mr. Eaton believed this vote would leave a lasting impression on the voters about the values this Commission respected.

*Ms. Phyllis Kessler* pointed out that Broward County did not fund organizations that discriminated against any protected minorities, and she hoped the City would follow suit.

*Mr. Paul Osterman* hoped the Commission would not withhold funds from the Boy Scouts because he understood the importance of healthy male mentoring. He said he had become a homosexual because he had not had any strong, male support as a youth. Mr. Osterman stated that he had yearned for love and affirmation as a young boy, but he had not received it, and this need had become “sexualized” as he had gone through puberty. He had started to look to other men to meet that need for love, and they had seduced him in his moments of need. Mr. Osterman knew he had not been born a homosexual, but he had been born a boy who needed positive male love of the type provided by the Boy Scouts. In fact, he was certain he would not have become gay, if he’d had some older men to promote strong moral virtues and values as he had been developing.

Mr. Osterman stated that he was no longer a homosexual, and he had led an adult lifestyle for 13 years. He advised that there were several ministries in the area that helped people who were struggling with homosexuality, and they helped men and women who had chosen to stop living the homosexual lifestyle because they did not have to. Mr. Osterman hoped the Commission would honor the values promoted by the Boy Scouts by not withholding funds.

*Ms. Marsha Valencia* felt the activists here today were violating their own standards of tolerance and committing a vile form of discrimination that would directly hurt the disabled, needy children being served by this program. She stated that everyone had a right to act in accordance with their own consciences, yet the activists loudly maintained a double standard. Ms. Valencia thought they should practice the tolerance they so loudly preached by allowing the Boy Scouts to uphold their own beliefs. She felt the fact that everyone was here today proved that the activists lied when they boldly proclaimed that this was about tolerance. Ms. Valencia thought the activists were fighting viciously for the forced acceptance of homosexuality at any cost.

*Ms. Kelly Anne Sykes* noted that there were signs in the room indicating "hate was not a family value." She stated that she did not hate homosexuals. In fact, she had watched someone burning a gay pride flag on the news recently in horror. As a Christian, she felt that went against everything that Christ stood for and died for. Ms. Sykes begged the Commission not to eliminate this funding. She believed the principles taught by the Boy Scouts would help young men make decisions based upon traditional family values and moral decency, and those were the values she wanted to instill in her boys. Ms. Sykes felt people had been lazy and passive when it came to standing up for their children, and society was paying the price.

*Mr. Chuck Tiedje* felt the public sector should fund private entities such as the Boy Scouts because private entities did a better job of providing social services than did government. He understood the intent of government was to make the best use possible of available resources, and government was looking to the private sector more and more to address social service needs. He cited the foster parent program as an example and pointed out that the State had recognized the fact that there were faith-based organizations that could do a better job of it than government.

Mr. Tiedje stated that the Boy Scouts was an entity that could provide meaningful services in a cost-efficient manner. He felt that eliminating this funding would result in the City having to find other programs at higher cost to serve these populations. Mr. Tiedje encouraged the Commission to recognize that the continued support of effective organizations was a good use of tax dollars.

*Ms. Pat Mayers* said she was a divorced, white, Christian, straight female and a senior citizen. Nevertheless, her gay neighbors had done nothing but make the neighborhood a better place for everyone. Ms. Mayers did not feel the City's budget should contain funding for any organization that discriminated against any human being.

*Mr. Don Morris* advised that he was gay, and he was saddened to have to ask the Commission not to fund this tremendous organization. He said that he had numerous nieces and nephews, and he would be the first one to defend them against sexual predators, but the Boy Scouts were "turning on their own." Mr. Morris thought a leader who was open and honest about being gay was better than a leader with a "hidden secret" who molested children. He pointed out that Scout leaders taught children how to be good citizens, and their sexuality was irrelevant. Mr. Morris did not believe in discrimination, and he did not feel an organization that discriminated should be funded with public dollars. He applauded the church that was helping fund this private organization, and he wanted to be the first gay man to raise money for the Scouts if it changed its policy in this regard.

*Mr. Wally Lowe* applauded Commissioner Smith for standing up for what was right, and he challenged the rest of the Commission to prove him wrong, but he believed the “die had been cast.” He pointed out that \$10,000 was only a miniscule portion of the City’s budget, and the Boy Scouts had been helping people for over 100 years. Mr. Lowe had not seen the gay community offering any funding or support for the needy in the community, although he expected the Commission to vote against this funding.

*Mr. Mike Lockwood* said he was a resident of Fort Lauderdale, and he opposed funding the Boy Scouts in the budget. He did not believe tax dollars should be used to fund any organization that discriminated. Mr. Lockwood advised that he was a born again Christian and the son of a Baptist minister, and discrimination was an immoral, evil sin. He pointed out that tax dollars were supposed to help everyone, but this organization excluded some of the finest individuals in Fort Lauderdale because of who they were. Mr. Lockwood agreed the Scouts could believe as they wished, but he did not feel they were entitled to public funds when their policies promoted oppression and homophobia.

Mr. Lockwood pointed out that there was no shortage of organizations that needed funding to help serve disadvantaged children. These groups did not discriminate and had policies of inclusion. He urged the Commission to exclude the Scout appropriation until its policy had been amended to include everyone.

*Mr. Dick St. John* had lived in Fort Lauderdale for 10 years and in Broward County for 25 years. He felt the issue was one of whether the City Commission would support a program that assisted disabled and under privileged children or if it preferred to support a radical political agenda. Mr. St. John believed this effort was one of spite on the part of the homosexual community in order to “get back” at the Boy Scouts due to the recent Supreme Court decision. He stated that he had been a Boy Scout and a combat soldier, and he had no doubt that the lessons taught him as a Boy Scout had been very beneficial in his service to country. Mr. St. John felt that if the gay population objected to spending their tax dollars in this fashion, the rest of the population might want to consider the tax dollars spent on other organizations, such as those which provided medical help to AIDS patients.

Ms. Lin Morgan said she was 56 years old, and she and her daughter had been active in the Girl Scouts. She did not feel it was right to exclude people from Scouting because they were gay. Ms. Morgan did not think it was right to raise young men to feel that a gay person was not of equal value or did not deserve the same liberties as everyone else. She felt the City’s money should be spent on something other than a private organization that excluded some members of the community.

*Mr. John Phillips* said he had come to Fort Lauderdale 20 years ago, and he had known Fort Lauderdale as a “gay Mecca.” He had spent his vacations at the Marlin Beach Hotel, but he had left the lifestyle 11 years ago for many different reasons. Mr. Phillips understood that no one wanted to be excluded, and it hurt, and he wished the gay community no ill. However, he believed the human mind had the ability to be transformed, and he did not think this was the time to stop funding a group that taught God, country, principles and family values. Mr. Phillips wondered what had happened to common sense. He thought there was something wrong with everyone’s thinking when being politically correct and inclusive meant throwing away common sense.

*Reverend J. L. Vandenhouten*, Associate Pastor of the West Lauderdale Baptist Church, said he was a Director of the Matthew Project, which was contracted through the Department of Juvenile Justice to deal with 30 children on a daily basis. He was also a former Scout, and his 3 sons had been Boy Scouts as well. Reverend Vandenhouten believed the Scouts had taught them all leadership skills, respect for their country and its laws, and to live as individuals and love individuals. He pointed out that America was a republic, and the Constitution was the law of the land. The Boy Scouts had been challenged and found innocent, and now people wanted to punish them for standing up for their rights. Reverend Vandenhouten wondered what kind of example this was setting for the children in terms of obeying the law, and he encouraged the Commission not to "defund" the Boy Scouts.

*Pastor Jimmy Cox*, of the West Lauderdale Baptist Church, said he had been intricately involved in this community for 7 years, and he described some of his community participation. He stated that it was the desire of the government that faith-based organizations help the community. Pastor Cox stated that there were 200 kids on the streets of Fort Lauderdale this very night who were lost, and the foster care program was the worst in the country. He believed the community needed more people doing more constructive things with children, and he hoped the Commission would maintain funding for the Boy Scouts.

Pastor Cox said he was trying to "step up to the plate" and help kids, and families in Broward County were in need. He felt the question was about taking away a few thousand dollars that could help needy kids because of political passion. Pastor Cox had never seen a community so divided, and he did not think the political causes were worth it.

*Mrs. Sandra Vandenhouten* advised she had 6 children, and they had all been involved in Scouting. She noted that a previous speaker had indicated she had been taught values and morals in the Girl Scouts, but she was sure homosexuality was not taught as a moral value. Mrs. Vandenhouten stated that the leaders had morals and character of the type she wanted her children to emulate, and she had not wanted them to emulate homosexuality. As a former teacher, she knew that the character of leaders was passed on to the children.

Mrs. Vandenhouten pointed out that the Supreme Court had already ruled that the Boy Scouts enjoyed First Amendment rights, and she did not think anyone should take that away. She urged the Commission not to "cave in" to the threats and intimidation of a minority of homosexual activists seeking to destroy a fine American institution in order to further a political agenda.

*Ms. Maxine Makas* said she was a taxpayer, a resident and an employee of the Center to Reclaim America. She stated there was abundant evidence of adult male Scoutmasters abusing Boy Scouts entrusted to them by parents. In fact, an investigation conducted by the "Washington Times" in 1991 had uncovered more than 400 cases of Scout leaders arrested or banned from Scouting for sexually assaulting boys in their care. It had also contained a state-by-state list of these cases, and she did not think parents had any choice but to mobilize quickly to safeguard their children. Ms. Makas urged the Commission to continue its support of the Learning for Life program.

*Ms. Rachel Gaines* said she was a volunteer at the First Baptist Church, and she would do anything in her power to teach truth and support youth. She was appalled that adults would take away something that taught children the right things, and she hoped the Commission would support the Boy Scouts.

*Mr. Jason Mulack* advised that he was a former Scout and had recently become an intern at the Center for Reclaiming America. He thought he was probably impressionable and ill informed when it came to the gay lobby and its agenda. Mr. Mulack said the psychology of that community was foreign to him but, if they were happy in their lifestyle, so be it. If not, he believed there was help available, but he thought the gay lobby was trying to "flex too much muscle" here. Mr. Mulack believed the Boy Scouts taught the chain of command, which served well later in the military, and boys had mentors to follow. He felt the lessons learned during this experience remained through life, and he believed funding should continue.

*Ms. Edith Lederberg*, Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging, said she spoke on behalf of the elderly in this community. She reported there were 36,155 people over 60 in Fort Lauderdale of many religious, ethnic and sexual persuasions, and they had tremendous needs. Ms. Lederberg stated that the Area Agency on Aging was mandated by law to raise a local 10% match for its funding, and over \$2 million worth of services were provided within the City so that seniors could live their retirement years in dignity and in their accustomed environments.

Ms. Lederberg reported that the funding request was based on a fair share mechanism with a dollar amount assigned to each senior in the community in order to raise local matching funds. She stated that 1,023 residents were provided with meals 5 days per week, and Alzheimer's disease services were provided to 20 Fort Lauderdale residents. In addition, day care was provided for these patients. Ms. Lederberg said that the request this year had been for \$94,000 from the City. However, the City proposed spending \$79,000 on Family Central, a children's organization, and the Area Agency on Aging. Although she was appreciative, only \$39,000 would go to the Area Agency on Aging, but that would not be enough for the local match required by law to obtain the federal funding. Ms. Lederberg hoped the Commission would increase the amount appropriated to this organization.

*Mr. Ray Rideout* said he was the Co-Chair of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLISTEN), and its mission was to assist gay young people of school age to deal with the horrible effects of daily discrimination. He acknowledged that the Boy Scouts had been an honorable institution for many years, and most of his gay friends had been Scouts. However, while disadvantaged and handicapped children had been discussed, no one had mentioned gay kids. He believed that was because their parents did not know their children were gay.

Mr. Rideout felt that the issues of discrimination in the Scouts had been very subliminal if they had existed at all. He doubted too many people had even known the Scouts had a policy relating to homosexuality. However, when the Scouts had elected to take this matter all the way to the Supreme Court, they had left the community with very little choice. Mr. Rideout felt for the gay children who now knew they were unwelcome in their troops, and he pointed out that 14-year-olds did not have gay lifestyles. He felt the Commission should support the law, and he noted that of the 200 lost kids mentioned earlier, 40% of them were gay, yet no one was standing up for them.

*Mr. Kurt Liphardt* said he was a resident, homeowner and business owner in Fort Lauderdale, and he was not ashamed of the fact that he was a homosexual. Like having brown eyes, he could cover it up, but he could not change it. He advised that he was also an Eagle Scout, which was an award from an organization of which he was now ashamed. Mr. Liphardt had gone to Boy Scout summer camp for 9 years, as a Scout and later as a Counselor. He advised that he had known he was homosexual for the last 3 of those 9 years, and it had never been an issue because sexual relations of any kind had no place in Scouting.

Mr. Liphardt felt that any adult who had sex with a child, homosexual or heterosexual, was a pedophile and should be prosecuted and banned from Scouting. He thought the problem with the Boy Scout's position was the assumption that homosexuals were pedophiles, and that was simply not the case. Mr. Liphardt said he had never had sexual relations of any kind at camp or at any event or Scouting function because that would have been completely inappropriate. He stated that when he became too old to be a Scout, he had considered becoming a leader, but he would have had to lie to do so. He advised he would have given anything at that time to change his sexual orientation in order to remain involved with Scouting, and he cherished his memories of Scouting. Mr. Liphardt thought he was a better person for Scouting, and he thought it was a great organization except for its policy of teaching discrimination.

Mr. Liphardt understood the Boy Scouts considered itself a private organization and, as such, had the right to discriminate against homosexuals. However, private organizations should not receive public funding.

*Ms. Barbara Collier* said she had 3 sons and 5 grandsons and had been involved in Scouting for many years. She felt the Scoutmaster had done a wonderful job, and one of his Eagle Scouts was now a Congressman. Ms. Collier strongly objected to homosexual Scout leaders, but she hoped the Commission would provide the funding for this worthwhile program that taught grooming, respect, responsibility, fairness, trust, self-discipline, anger control, honesty and more. She thought it would be intolerant to withdraw this funding, and she submitted a petition containing 500 signatures of people who wanted the City to support the Boy Scouts.

Ms. Donna Hahn stated that she had been a resident of Broward County for 30 years, and she had been very active in Girl Scouting, and her children had been Scouts. Her son-in-law had also been a Scout. Although he had been raised by a single parent, his Scout Leader had given him the values he embraced in raising his own children. Ms. Hahn advised that her son-in-law still talked about the influence his Scout Leader had on his life, and girls had come to her with very personal concerns when she was a Scout Leader. She felt this was a position of great trust, and this funding was to assist poor, disadvantaged and disabled children. Ms. Hahn had a disabled granddaughter, and she hoped everyone remembered that this money was for disabled children.

*Ms. Mary Jo Jones* said she was a mother, a grandmother, and a taxpayer, and she had a grandchild who was severely handicapped. She hoped the Commission would vote to support this funding.

*Mr. Paul Hoffman*, a resident of Pompano Beach, hoped the Commission would try to be politically courageous on this issue rather than politically correct. He asked them to consider the notion that the Boy Scouts were being "made a prize in the culture war," and it was not fair to the children. Mr. Hoffman respected both sides of this issue and hoped some compromise could be reached. He stated that the Boy Scouts had made a decision, and the Supreme Court had affirmed and approved it. If people did not care for that decision, there were other ways to approach the problem instead of "defunding" the Boy Scouts. Mr. Hoffman thought such action would send the wrong symbolic message. He did not think taking money from disadvantaged children was the proper way to get a situation changed.



*Ms. Naomi Parker* said it was hard for her not to cry when looking around this room as an African American. She stated that only 40 or 50 years ago a similar battle was sought to keep her out of this room and to keep her from being free first because she was a woman and then because she was black. Ms. Parker understood how difficult it was to raise disabled children because she had an autistic son, a disabled brother, and a disabled nephew. However, she did not feel the City should fund any organization at all that discriminated against anyone at all. She did not think this was an issue of the Boy Scouts. Rather, it was an issue about freedom and public dollars going to a private organization, which consciously chose to discriminate. Ms. Parker felt she was being told she was not worthy to be a leader in this community as a lesbian mom. However, she was a leader and would die free.

Ms. Parker advised that her daughters had asked her why she was coming here tonight to fight for the rights of boys, and she had explained that she was fighting for the rights of children. She described her background as a social worker in this community for over 35 years. Despite being a lesbian, she had earned 2 masters degrees and helped to raise 47 children in foster care. She had also adopted a baby born addicted to crack cocaine, and she hoped to adopt again as a lesbian. Ms. Parker stated that there were many children who needed help, and not just Boy Scouts. She supported the Scouting Program, but she did not feel public dollars should be used to fund a private organization that chose to discriminate. Ms. Parker felt that was just wrong.

*Mr. Rixon Rafter* said he was a resident of Fort Lauderdale, and he was against the use of any tax dollars to help fund social or cultural organizations. Although he and his children were involved in Scouting, he was gay. From what he had heard tonight, one could not be both, but he was both. Mr. Rafter recalled that when he was a Scout, the organization had not "fed at the public trough." Rather, they had raised their own monies. He understood the South Florida Council's budget was \$3.5 million, and he did not believe withholding a few thousand dollars tonight would disenfranchise the Scouts. In fact, Mr. Rafter believed it was a non-issue for the Scouts, although it appeared to be a big issue for some churches. He hoped the Commission would vote not to fund any of these organizations in its budget.

At 8:38 P.M., Commissioner Hutchinson left the meeting.

*Ms. Jodi Hoffman*, a resident of Pompano Beach, stated that homosexual activists had made the certain demands at the Gay Pride March in Washington, D.C., including repeal of all age of consent laws. She felt the only reason to repeal those laws was so adults could have sex with children. Ms. Hoffman advised that another demand had been for total access to all Boy Scouts. She stated that this was not a new issue, and it had been an annual demand since the 1970s from the gay activists. Ms. Hoffman did not believe most of the people in the room tonight were this type of gay activist, but they had to be acknowledged.

Ms. Hoffman stated that the Boy Scouts had chosen to exercise its First Amendment rights by excluding homosexuals, and she hoped the Commission would not sacrifice children on the "altar" of the First Amendment. She thought everyone present owed the children an apology for fighting for access to them and for the right to lead them when they had parents who wanted to do it themselves. Ms. Hoffman believed an attempt was being made to punish children for decisions made by adults. Although there were those who did not want to spend money to support the Boy Scouts, she did, and she believed the vast majority did.

At 8:42 P.M., Commissioner Hutchinson returned to the meeting.

*Mr. Sydney Besen* said she was the mother of a decent, honest, wonderful son who happened to be gay. She stated that the Boy Scout leadership had elected to perpetuate the myths, misconceptions and stereotypes about gay boys and men. She felt this was unconscionable in a diverse culture that had to strive for tolerance and acceptance of people's differences. Ms. Besen understood the Supreme Court had agreed the Boy Scouts could continue to deliver their misguided message of exclusion, and everyone had to live with that decision including the Boy Scouts. As a private organization that discriminated against citizens in the community, Ms. Besen did not feel the Boy Scouts deserved any public accommodations or funding.

*Ms. Karen Langman*, representing Family Central, stated that Family Central and the Area Agency on Aging were the two organizations in Broward County that were required to raise match dollars. She explained the purpose Family Central and stated that services had been provided to over 3,000 children last year. Ms. Langman expressed appreciation for including Family Central in the budget this year.

*Ms. Angela Guerrero* believed that God's love transcended every cultural boundary that had ever been in place, and she believed that extended to the homosexual community as well. She said she worked with Fort Lauderdale youth several times each week and knew many young people who had derived benefit from many Scout programs. Ms. Guerrero stated that the Boy Scouts had helped many single parents instill honor and virtue in their kids, and families had needed more and more help over the past few decades in instilling Godly values.

Ms. Guerrero knew what the Boy Scouts believed, and the hundreds of families she represented believed the same. She stated that honor, courage, discipline and purity were among the values that needed to be reinforced by leaders on impressionable children. Ms. Guerrero stated that these funds were necessary to help families who would otherwise not have the opportunity to send their children to the Boy Scouts. She hoped these children would have the equal opportunity to learn and participate in this respected club.

Ms. Guerrero pointed out that the City was considering a budget totaling millions of dollars, yet on a matter of principle motivated by political correctness, elimination of this funding was threatened. She did not think this money would make or break the Boy Scouts, but this money was earmarked for disabled children, and no political agenda should detrimentally affect these children.

*Mr. J. Heider* said he had tried to join the Scouts three times when he was a child. Finally, after his third attempt, the Scoutmaster's wife had pulled his mother aside and told her that he was not a member of the right religion because Scouting represented Christian ideals. He felt this had been one of many unfortunate examples of the hypocrisy that had existed and might continue to exist. Mr. Heider felt private support for organizations that promoted illogical discrimination was one thing, but public support with tax dollars was another. He did not think the City should allow discrimination to continue in any form, and he encouraged the Commission to fight what was right for all the citizens of the City. Mr. Heider did not want the City to fund any organization that discriminated, particularly since there were many organizations that did not and needed funding as well.

*Mr. Randall Klett* stated that he was a businessman, and business decisions sometimes had unintended consequences. He advised that the Boy Scouts had spent 20 years fighting for the right not to be a public accommodation, but a private accommodation. When he had been a child, the Scouts had been a public accommodation for Caucasian Christians. That had changed a little, and the laws of Florida had changed along with the public morals, which were still changing. He pointed out that Broward County had passed a law against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Mr. Klett thought the Boy Scouts had made a mistake in deciding to be a private accommodation, and private accommodations did not get public dollars.

*Mr. Jeff Herrmann*, Executive Director of the South Florida Council of Boy Scouts of America, thanked the Commission for the City's long partnership, particularly with respect to the Learning for Life Program. He stated that this community had been receiving notoriety associated with this program, which was handled in conjunction with the City Police and Fire Departments, and the Schools to Career Program was used as a model throughout the country. Mr. Herrmann said that private organizations throughout the community were needed to help children, and the Boy Scouts were all about helping children and families. He described some of the contributions the Boy Scouts had made to the community, and he noted there were 5,000 volunteer leaders who were always ready to step up and help.

Mayor Naugle believed Mr. Herrmann was the applicant for this grant, and he asked how the money would be spent specifically. He understood the amount was about \$4,000. Mr. Herrmann replied it would support the Learning for Life Program, which was a co-curriculum program operated with the public school system. Mr. Herrmann stated it was a character education program that targeted kids in special education classes.

Mayor Naugle stated that the First Baptist Church had presented a check earlier in the meeting, which he gave to Mr. Herrmann, in the amount of \$10,200. Mr. Herrmann expressed appreciation for the donation.

Mayor Naugle asked how many living Presidents had been involved in Scouting. Mr. Herrmann stated that every President since 1909 had been an honorary Boy Scout. He believed that Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and George Bush had been involved in the Scouting program, and he thought there were probably others as well.

*Mr. Ed Thomsen* said he had been a Scout committee member when his sons had been Boy Scouts, and no one had discriminated. He did not feel this was about discrimination. Rather, he felt it was about morality. Mr. Thomsen pointed out that the Scout Oath called for remaining "morally straight," and he understood that was a concern, but it had been included in the Oath long before anyone knew the words homosexual or gay. He stated that there were a lot of under privileged children who wanted to be Scouts. Mr. Thomsen had no problem with people choosing to be homosexuals, but they could change, and he hoped the City would continue the funding.

*Mr. Duane Baker* felt parents had a right to choose those who would chaperone their children. He understood others were concerned about prejudice. Mr. Baker thought the question was whether an organization had the right to choose chaperones for their functions. He stated that millions of gay men would not molest a child, but he knew of one individual who had been molested and suffered a mental breakdown. Another incident involved a Boy Scout leader who had molested a child and caused damage beyond repair. Mr. Baker had a daughter, and he wanted to spend as much time as possible with her, but he could not be a Girl Scout leader even though he would not touch a young girl. He did not think this was a matter of prejudice or hate, but people were protective of their children and wanted to choose their own chaperones.

*Ms. Mary Taylor* described her background and family and said she was a 48-year resident. She felt the Boy Scouts should be given a break. She stated that her brother had not learned prejudice as a Boy Scout. Although he was not gay himself, he had been a speechwriter for Barney Frank. Ms. Taylor did not understand why everyone could not just get along and give each other a break. She noted that a little bit of money was being given to a lot of different organizations, and she did not believe the Scouts were hurting any gay men. Ms. Taylor hoped the Commission would do the right thing.

*Mr. Andy Weiser* said he was a City resident and the registered domestic partner of Ed Nicholas, who had spoken earlier. He did not feel the Scouts should be funded because public dollars should not go to any organization that discriminated, and that was the law.

*Mr. Jerry Sulsenti* said he had lived in Broward County since 1963, and he had been a Fort Lauderdale resident since 1979. He volunteered with a variety of organizations, and he was here to speak on behalf of the kids. Mr. Sulsenti had noticed that when members of the gay community were speaking, Scouts were not snickering and making comments because they were taught respect and courtesy. He thought some others might have forgotten those lessons. Mr. Sulsenti said he was the leader of a Scout unit in Broward County with 150 Scouts, and he was a taxpayer. He felt the Scouts had just as much right to use public facilities and funding as anyone else, and the snickering he had heard when under privileged and disabled children were mentioned reflected ignorance.

Mr. Sulsenti resented, as a leader of a program that taught many things to young boys, that he had to explain to little boys what sexual orientation was even though that was not part of his program. He did not care what anyone did in his or her bedrooms, but bringing sexual preference into the program infringed on his rights as a youth leader. Mr. Sulsenti stated that someone had come to his last Troop meeting wearing a Gay Pride tee shirt, and he had no problem with that, but sexual orientation was not one of the topics taught in the Scouting program. He was concerned that he'd had to discuss sexual orientation with his own sons long before he had planned to do so, and he resented it. He hoped public officials were ready for the impact of eliminating funding and meeting places for Scouts.

*Mr. Marco Sulsenti* hoped the Commission would not take Scouting away from him and his friends.

*Ms. Diane Smith*, Executive Director of the Broward Homebound Program, expressed appreciation for the City's years of support of this organization. She stated that it provided in-home services to elderly and disabled adults, and 26% of them resided in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Smith advised that funding was obtained from 9 municipalities, and she hoped the City Commission would reconsider this contribution. She understood the Board had recommended against it this year and, while \$5,200 seemed like a small amount, it enabled the services that kept disabled adults independent when pooled with the contributions of others. Ms. Smith implored the Commission to continue providing this assistance for those who had such great needs. She advised that there were 145 people on a waiting list for services now, and the alternative was nursing home care, which was much more expensive.

*Mr. John Orosz* felt the Commission faced a difficult decision, but he encouraged continued funding of the Boy Scouts. He stated that there were self-serving interests in every community, but no one questioned the good this organization had done. Mr. Orosz thought that if the benefit of the doubt were always given to any minority group, there would be no organizations left to help the community effectively. He felt the City should fund the Boy Scouts and the other groups who were doing more than their share to benefit the community.

*Mr. Greg Ramos* agreed this was a difficult decision because everybody was right. He pointed out that no one believed Scouting was not a good program, and both heterosexual and homosexual scouts had indicated they had been well served as Scouts. Mr. Ramos felt the Boy Scouts did a lot of good, and a lot of time was spent talking to the boys. He thought it was necessary to take time in government, and cutting funding today because some group did not support it might not have great consequences over time. Mr. Ramos suggested that the funding be continued at this time with the idea of reviewing the overall issue in the future. He felt the situation might resolve itself given time, and it might allow time for others to find this necessary funding from other sources in the future. He thought there was more to be lost by eliminating the money this year, and it could potentially hurt both sides of the issue.

Mr. Ramos was sure there were homosexual Boy Scouts, and it made no difference in light of the fact that they were being taught how to tie knots, camp and even cook. He did not think it made any difference if these boys turned out to be homosexuals because they would turn out to be Americans. Mr. Ramos felt the Boy Scouts taught young people how to do the best they could with the resources they had, and that was all government could do as well. It could not please everyone, and it could not solve everyone's problems, but it could provide a little funding to an established, time-proven program. He thought it best to err on the side of caution and to continue this funding this year.

*Ms. Jacquelyn Scott* described her background as a volunteer within the community, but she had never attended a meeting in this room where people "went at" each other in such a cold, calculating way. It bothered her when people seemed to think the Commissioners did not have their own judgment as to what constituted discrimination. Ms. Scott did not think this issue was about men having sex, and she thought the Boy Scouts was a great organization. In fact, she had been very much in favor of Scouting until the Supreme Court ruling. She absolutely could not support one penny of her tax dollars going to any organization that discriminated, and she hoped the Commission would not support discrimination.

*Ms. Robin Bodiford* thought this whole proceeding had been profoundly disturbing. She described her background as a gay activist and a volunteer within the community. However, she was not here to pursue a "gay agenda," but she felt she deserved equal rights. Ms. Bodiford said she was speaking today on behalf of all the gay children who were being hurt by the Boy Scouts of America. She acknowledged the organization's wonderful record of service to the community, but the Boy Scout leadership had taken the wrong path. Ms. Bodiford understood private organizations had the right to freedom of association, but the Supreme Court had not said that such organizations had a right to public funding. She pointed out that there were a lot of Boy Scout supporters here tonight, and she was sure they would be willing to reach into their pockets to help.

*Ms. Norma Smoker* described her volunteer activities over the past 16 years and, as a mother, asked the Commission to support the Boy Scouts. She hoped no one thought all Christians hated homosexuals, and she was hopeful that everyone could learn to communicate with one another without acrimony. Ms. Smoker also pointed out that her tax dollars were often spent on things she did not support.

*Mr. Lawrence Fox* said he had been an Eagle Scout, and his mother had been a Den Mother. He felt there had been a lot of clouding of the issues, and there was no doubt that the Boy Scouts was a wonderful organization. However, none of these things mattered. Mr. Fox pointed out that the law did not allow public funding of organizations that discriminated. If people did not agree with that law, there were forums for changing it, but that was the law that guided the Commission now.

*Ms. Jean Hansen* had lived in Fort Lauderdale for over 30 years, and she had worked with runaway children 25 years ago. At that time, there had not been one boy who had not been accosted on the beach by homosexuals. She recalled that there had been frequent news articles about homosexual prostitution on the beach years ago, but such articles no longer appeared. She did not think that was because the activity had stopped but because everyone had been given sensitivity training. Ms. Hansen said her concern was the children, but she would like to see all public funding of charities stopped. She stated that she worked with various charities, and they did not take public funding. Ms. Hansen resented the fact that her tax dollars were being spent on organizations she did not support.

*Mr. Doug White* had a copy of the Boy Scout Leader Handbook and the Boy Scout Handbook, and he stated that he had been an Eagle Scout and was a very active member of the gay community. Mr. White advised that he had been a Scout Leader too, and he believed the Boy Scouts of America was a wonderful institution. However, Scouting had been founded on the principles of integrity and character. He quoted from the Scoutmaster Handbook, which called for "red-blooded and right-hearted men" to be leaders, and he had worked hard to teach citizenship to the boys of the community.

Mr. White pointed out that the Scouts valued "deeds above words," yet there were men who wanted to teach children good citizenship but were not allowed because of what they were rather than what they stood for. He thought it was a shame, and he felt Americans should send a message to the Boy Scout leadership that they would not tolerate intolerance and injustice. Mr. White noted that this organization had not been founded on discrimination or intolerance. He did not think public funding should be provided under the circumstances, but he felt the community should all come together because the intent of Scouting was to provide an educational program to build character and train boys in the responsibility of participating citizenship and personal fitness. Mr. White thought the boys he had led had been given the fair chance called for by Scouting because they had been taught the stated principles of Scouting. He hoped the leadership would change this policy so he could support funding the Boy Scouts in the future.

*Mr. Gary Threewits* said he was "pro-heterosexual," although he was not homophobic or a gay basher. He believed God loved everyone, but he was concerned about such changes as removing prayer from schools and legalizing abortion. Mr. Threewits felt that allowing homosexuals to lead Boy Scouts broke down family values. He did not hate homosexuals, but he hated the homosexual lifestyle and felt there was a difference. Mr. Threewits thought that allowing this would allow homosexuals "to get a foot in another door." As a pro-heterosexual, he felt enough was enough, and he thoroughly supported the Boy Scouts.

*Ms. Miriam Moss* urged the Commission to save the Scouts and support its motto. She believed in the Bible, and the Boy Scouts were doing nothing but upholding the Judeo Christian principles on which this country was founded. She felt America was special because it had been founded upon those principles, and she thought people should listen to its founding fathers. Ms. Moss quoted several historical figures, including John Quincy Adams, who had said "the highest glory of the American Revolution was that it connected the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

*Mr. Stewart Pickle*, of the Gulfstream Baptist Association, said he had grown up in Scouting, and his parents had been Scoutmasters, too. He pointed out that the people who composed Broward County were from 189 different countries, and Fort Lauderdale was as diverse as any other city in the County. Mr. Pickle stated that every country had scouting programs, and the decision made tonight would be heard around the world. He did not want Fort Lauderdale known as a place that punished the Scouts. Mr. Pickle hoped the Commission would support this very small contribution, and he believed this decision could have far reaching impacts on tourism.

*Ms. Monica Wilson* said she was a Fort Lauderdale resident, an activist, and a single mother. As a taxpayer, she was concerned about any precedent that could be set this evening. Ms. Wilson noted that the Boy Scouts had fought long and hard for the right to discriminate against an entire segment of the community, and they were entitled to do so. However, she did not feel they were entitled to public funding. Ms. Wilson wondered what would happen if the City did fund this organization, and the Aryan Nation sought funding next year for its youth program. If that funding was refused, she was concerned about the potential lawsuits.

Ms. Wilson pointed out that there were various youth programs throughout the community, including the City's own Parks & Recreation Department programs. She felt the monies under consideration could be used to expand those programs for all boys and girls in Fort Lauderdale without any sort of discrimination. Ms. Wilson thought that would be an appropriate expenditure of tax dollars.

*Mr. Phil Whitaker* was amazed at the path that had been taken today. He loved this country and the institutions it represented, but its institutions were being challenged at every point. He felt ideals and standards that would destroy this country were being imported. Mr. Whitaker thought the issue tonight was worldviews, and his worldview was based on Judeo Christian ethics. He compared this "battle field" to the battlefields of the Civil War when both sides had firmly believed in their causes. He wondered whose worldview would win out in this battle. Mr. Whitaker wondered if the Commission's worldview was shaped by the Creator of all things or a "relativistic, moralistic" philosophy that changed with the wind. He hoped the Commission would support the Boy Scouts.

*Mr. David Ferebee* said that as different governmental entities discussed funding for the Boy Scouts, he was reminded of the Boston Tea Party. He pointed out that America's forefathers had revolted because a tax had been imposed without participation of those paying it. Mr. Ferebee stated that he paid \$3,200 in taxes, and he was concerned that his money was being given to an organization that quite proudly refused him participation. He did not feel he should be forced to pay a tax for something that excluded any taxpayer, and he pointed out that this had been the root of the American Revolution. Mr. Ferebee hoped the Commission would not support government-sanctioned discrimination against taxpayers. He felt that if the Boy Scouts of America wanted to discriminate, it should do so with private dollars.

*Mr. Tim Smith* said he was one of hundreds of tired Scoutmasters who spent thousands of hours working with kids. He stated in jest that he really wanted to join the Girl Scouts, but he was not allowed. Mr. Smith knew of no Scoutmaster who was a gay basher, and he did not know anyone who thought all homosexuals were child molesters. He had not agreed when prayer had been taken out of the schools, but it was the law of the land. By the same token, however, he pointed out that "in God we trust" had not been removed from America's currency.

Mr. Smith advised that he was a "recovering Catholic," but every time the term "homosexual" was used in a Boy Scout publication, it was preceded by the word "avowed." The Boy Scouts did not think gay men were proper role models for young, impressionable boys. He thought there were probably more gay Eagle Scouts than heterosexual Eagle Scouts if this evening was any indication, yet he had never heard the subject of sexuality discussed at any Boy Scout activity. Mr. Smith said that Boy Scouts were interested in camping and roasting marshmallows, and any decisions made about sexuality were made outside the realm of Scouting.

Mr. Smith stated that the purpose of Scouting was to teach character and values. He believed the organization did a good job of it, but a line had to be drawn somewhere. Mr. Smith pointed out that if the line had to be drawn at a point where no one could possibly be offended, there would be no values or character left to teach.

*Mr. Arnold Velazquez* advised that he was a member of the Executive Board of the South Florida Council, and he had been involved in Scouting for 48 years starting as a Boy Scout in Cuba. He was reminded of the situation in Cuba in 1958, in which a master manipulator had turned groups against groups to serve a political purpose. Mr. Velazquez felt this evening's decision was about what America was doing as a nation. He did not think small, vocal groups should be allowed to turn Americans against each other because everyone would lose. Mr. Velazquez said he was Cuban by chance but American by choice, and he did not believe the Boy Scouts had ever discriminated against anyone who agreed to live by its laws and promise.



*Mr. Dennis Dehart* said his purpose tonight had been to see how the Commission would vote, but he felt he had been quiet for too long. He believed this decision would have impact around the world, and he was not against anybody, but he did not support any agenda that would not be positive for his children or grandchildren. Mr. Dehart thought the community should fight for the common cause of the next generation, and he hoped the Commission would vote its conscience.

*Ms. Martiza Vedoya* said she had been born in Peru, and she had served as a Cub Scout leader for 5 years. She had lived under a dictatorship, and she believed this decision would send a message to the whole world. Ms. Vedoya said she had been raised to respect people, and she taught youth to respect people and work for a living. She wanted the Boy Scouts to support morality, and she had principles instilled in her as a child. Ms. Vedoya advised that she was a lesbian, and she wanted guarantees that there were no pedophiles in the Boy Scouts. She pointed out that there were "bad guys" in every organization, but she did not think being gay or being a lesbian made anyone a bad guy. She felt any organization that worked with youth should protect them from anyone who could hurt them.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson that the public hearing be closed. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Mayor Naugle read a letter into the record from James Dobson, Ph.D., which indicated that Focus on the Family would do everything possible to protect the Boy Scouts. It noted that a recent radio program had addressed the City's decision, and Focus on the Family was forming a coalition of pro-family individuals and groups to mount a nationwide boycott of Fort Lauderdale if funding of the Boy Scouts was eliminated. Mr. Dobson believed the vast majority of the Commission's constituency supported the Boy Scouts of America. Mayor Naugle was concerned about the potential loss of millions of tourism dollars.

Mayor Naugle was hopeful that the Commission would respect the decision of the Supreme Court. He said he'd had to live with many Supreme Court decisions he could not tolerate, such as the killing of babies, but he had to respect it. Mayor Naugle believed that failure to approve this funding would be discrimination against people with certain religious beliefs. He pointed out that while many people might love the homosexual individual, they hated the sin. Mayor Naugle believed most people in the United States had that view, and he was concerned that society was not tolerant of the Christians in the community.

Mayor Naugle believed that if the Commission voted against the Scouts this evening, it would divide the community even further. He had heard people talk about another referendum, and that could be very divisive, but he thought there could be a question placed on a ballot through citizen petition. If so, Mayor Naugle believed the Scouts would prevail.

Mayor Naugle also believed that organizations throughout the country were looking to see what the Commission would do tonight, including Broward County and the United Way. He thought that a vote to eliminate this funding would cost the United Way millions of dollars. Mayor Naugle also believed that driving Scouts out of the public schools would promote home schooling and weaken the public school system.

Mayor Naugle felt the Scouts had always been an extremely worthwhile organization, and he was sure they would survive. He did not think the Scouts would or could change its position because that would involve rewriting the Bible and, if they did, Scouting would die because parents would quit sending their kids. In fact, he thought the Scouts would receive more support than ever due to this stance. Mayor Naugle worried more about the other organizations that would take a position of discriminating on the basis of religion. He noted that many of the nation's past Presidents had been involved in Scouting, and he thought that if President Clinton had been a Scout he might not be considered an embarrassment to this nation.

Commissioner Smith said he had spent many hours speaking with people on both sides of this issue. However, until this evening, he had not understood how deeply emotional this issue was and what it represented. He felt the one thing everyone agreed on was that the Scouts had done good work for this country, and everyone agreed it would be a sad day when government had to quit providing funding for such an excellent program. However, that was where the agreement stopped.

Commissioner Smith had been offended by statements indicating that this Commission would do anything just because it was politically expedient. He had also been offended by those who implied that Commissioners had done anything wrong with respect to their campaign coffers. Commissioner Smith said he tried to do what was right, and he always tried to represent his constituency to the best of his ability. He believed the people he represented were tolerant people, and they wanted Fort Lauderdale to be a diverse group with nothing against anyone else. Commissioner Smith was particularly offended by the idea of forming separate groups because that did not work. It had not worked for African Americans, and he did not believe it would work for gays and lesbians. Commissioner Smith believed people should be judged on the content of their character and nothing else.

Commissioner Smith understood that gay people wanted to be accepted as human beings, and he felt that was entirely appropriate. He pointed out that the Jews had mounted a similar fight, too. Commissioner Smith felt the City had to follow the law, and he noted that there had been no public discussion about not allowing Scouts to meet in public places such as the City's parks. However, he felt using tax dollars to support an organization that openly excluded anyone was wrong.

Commissioner Smith did not believe elimination of this funding would have any profound effect on Fort Lauderdale. He thought Fort Lauderdale had been known as a diverse, accepting community for a very long time and was in good company with other huge cities that would not tolerate intolerance. Commissioner Smith pointed out that numerous communities had banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. He said he had never been discriminated against because he had always been a white, Anglo-Saxon, but that was not true for a lot of people. Commissioner Smith had received many letters, but one had stood out. It had come from a heterosexual father of 3 who was offended that the Boy Scouts discriminated. He had not understood how the national Scout leadership could put its political agenda ahead of his children's interests. Another letter had come from a gay man who supported funding the Boy Scouts, but he was concerned that parents had the idea that gay people were trying to "recruit" children.

Commissioner Smith did not think one of the pedophiles who had abused children in the Scouting program was an avowed homosexual. He felt the Boy Scouts should change its national policy and begin a tough screening process to ensure no pedophiles were admitted to the organization. Commissioner Smith said he was a father, and he would protect his son from pedophiles at all costs, but he would rather have his son chaperoned by a well-respected gay member of the community than by some of the hateful people who had spoken this evening. Commissioner Smith proposed that the funding recommended for the Boy Scouts be redirected to the Girl Scouts.

Commissioner Katz was concerned that this issue had divided the community but, as a former Girl Scout and Den Mother, she did not believe that Scouting had ever been meant to pull people apart or to discriminate. She understood the Boy Scouts was a private organization that had the right to hire whoever it wished but, in that case, she felt the organization should seek private funding. Commissioner Katz did not think Fort Lauderdale should send the message that discrimination was okay. She agreed with Commissioner Smith and believed there were other organizations that did not discriminate that would provide assistance to children.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that this had been her first budget hearing, and she was well prepared. She had solicited opinions in this regard, and she was offended by remarks concerning political agendas and political vendettas. Commissioner Hutchinson said she had received no money from any group in this room tonight, and she intended to vote her conscience. She pointed out that the national Boy Scout leadership had elected to fight for the right to discriminate, and she was surprised people had not gotten past this issue in the year 2000. Commissioner Hutchinson hoped the County would allow the public an opportunity to voice opinions about its \$94,000 proposed contribution to the Boy Scouts.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that a lot of people had mentioned a County ordinance this evening, which they believed governed the City Commission. The City Attorney advised that Fort Lauderdale did not have an ordinance of that nature, and the City was not bound by the County ordinance, the Supreme Court decision, or the State Constitution. He advised that the Commission was not limited in how it voted on this issue.

Commissioner Hutchinson said she had grown up fat, and she had often been excluded from clubs and other groups as a result. She intended to vote against this funding and to reallocate it to some other organization that did not discriminate.

Mayor Naugle wondered if the Commission wanted to put this money into the Contingency Fund or contribute it directly to the Girl Scouts. He noted that the budget would be voted on again on September 19, 2000, so a decision as to how this money could be spent could be delayed. Commissioner Hutchinson felt there were several worthy organizations to consider – Justice for Children & Families, Kids Voting, and the Broward Homebound Program. Mayor Naugle noted that one-third of the money could be contributed to each of those organizations.

Commissioner Katz pointed out that there was really a very small amount of money involved, and she thought it would be best to select one for the funding, if possible. In the future, she thought the Commission should consider whether or not it wanted to continue the policy of contributing these public funds to these organizations. Mayor Naugle thought it would be a good idea to discuss that subject at a Conference meeting. He pointed out that these organizations would be eligible for the Children's Services Tax monies next year, and Fort Lauderdale taxpayers would be contributing up to \$8 million.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to place the contribution proposed for the Boy Scouts of America in the Contingency Fund pending redirection of those monies upon second reading of the budget ordinance. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, and Smith. NAYS: Mayor Naugle.

Commissioner Katz was concerned about balancing a budget without knowing the outcome of negotiations with the Police and Fire Unions. She thought a mediator should be brought in now so the Commission would not be trying to balance a budget with unsettled figures. Mayor Naugle believed that discussion should be reserved for a closed-door session, and he expected an update on the morning of September 19, 2000. Commissioner Katz wondered what would happen if agreement had not been reached by that date. Mayor Naugle asked her if she had lost confidence in City staff's ability to negotiate. Commissioner Katz thought the City should have come to terms with this before this point in time.

The City Manager stated that bargaining was proceeding in good faith, and he had no reason to believe the negotiations had reached the point of near impasse. More significantly, this was not the first time a budget had been considered without solid agreements from all three of the bargaining units in place. He advised that the goal was to ensure there were sufficient funds in the budget to address whatever agreements were reached. The City Manager did not believe he was in danger of asking the Commission to approve a budget only to present a labor package that was not adequately funded. He pointed out that doing so would not represent good faith bargaining, and a mediator could not guarantee anything because it was not the same thing as binding arbitration.

The City Manager desired the opportunity to provide a report on September 19, 2000, but he did not feel any forced mediation was necessary at this juncture. He pointed out that all sides would have to agree to mediation, and then they would have to agree on a mediator. The City Manager understood Commissioner Katz's concern, but he felt good faith bargaining should be allowed to continue at this time. Commissioner Katz wanted to go on record that she thought this matter should have been resolved with a mediator before reaching this point in the budget process.

Commissioner Katz was also concerned about the surplus in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). However, she and Commissioner Hutchinson had seen a presentation last week about a list of projects that were under-funded from bridges to sewer pipes. Commissioner Katz suggested transferring the surplus CIP funds to those projects rather than to the General Fund. She understood there was \$1.5 million in question. Rather than placing \$3 million in the Reserve Fund, she preferred maintaining a \$1.5 million Reserve balance, and using the surplus \$1.5 million to address those other projects.

The City Manager said he had discussed this with Commissioners Katz and Hutchinson. Mayor Naugle asked when this discussion had taken place. Mr. Sharp advised that a presentation about infrastructure had been made on Friday, although the rest of the Commission had seen that presentation in May, 1999. Mayor Naugle wished he had the benefit of the information presented at that time, but he and Commissioner Moore had been out of town. He was concerned that these "special sessions" could turn into lobbying sessions where items were considered in something less than an accurate light.

The City Manager stated that any documents presented during that session could be reproduced, and the meeting had been properly noticed. Mayor Naugle wished he could have seen that presentation. He pointed out, for example, that this evening's discussion had nothing to do with water and sewer projects because that involved a different fund. Commissioner Katz said she had mentioned sewer pipes only as an example, and there were different areas of the City's infrastructure that needed to be addressed. Mayor Naugle noted that the Commission was facing an 8% tax increase, and it was dangerous to raise taxes during favorable economic times because the economy could take a downturn.

The City Manager stated that as infrastructure needs were examined, it had been recognized that those needs far outstripped the City's ability to fund. He had made a commitment to the Commission to put together a comprehensive listing of the needs and the potential funding sources. He acknowledged that this situation would not be cured in this year's budget, with or without the \$1.5 million, because the needs went far beyond that amount. The City Manager stated that the City Commission would receive a report and recommendation in this regard during the upcoming fiscal year. He advised that it had taken years to save enough money to replace two fire stations, and the process was not serving the City very well in meeting all its needs. However, moving the \$1.5 million would only reduce a reserve in one area and move it to another, and it would not affect the bottom line.

The City Manager pointed out that the City's bond rating had been an acknowledgement that reserves were kept in the right place and in sufficient amounts to indicate prudent financial affairs. Therefore, he did not want to make a move in this budget year that might affect that while not doing a great deal to resolve a larger problem. The City Manager preferred to examine the situation in its totality in the years to come. Commissioner Katz understood the City Manager's position although she did not know why there was a surplus in the budget anyway. She still felt strongly that the City should make a commitment to move forward in this regard without putting off the decision any longer.

Mayor Naugle thought the time for the discussion suggested by Commissioner Katz had been before the millage rate was advertised. He believed that making this transfer now would make it more difficult to fund the massive raises desired because there was only so much money available.

Commissioner Hutchinson felt the infrastructure workshop had been informational, and she had not thought this budget would be looked to for solutions. She had learned a lot about where the City's infrastructure was lacking, and it had been an opportunity to learn so that these things could be addressed in upcoming years.

Commissioner Hutchinson referred to the Façade Program. She was concerned that the idea was to provide it solely in the Enterprise Zone. She believed there were a lot of areas throughout the City where it could be useful, such as 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and she hoped a second façade program for the rest of the City could be created.

Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Katz that the Capital Improvements Program should be strong. He understood the City Manager was concerned about the reserve, and he wanted to discuss the \$2 million carry forward from the current fiscal year. Commissioner Smith thought that if \$2 million had not been spent, it had been because the things for which it was budgeted were not very important. He wondered if that carry forward money could be put into the reserve account to address other problems.

Commissioner Smith agreed wholeheartedly with Commissioner Hutchinson that there were other major arterials that could make good use of a façade program. The City Manager appreciated Commissioner Smith's comments, but there were some good reasons why some of the carry forward money had not been spent or encumbered. He noted that carry forward monies were identified at the end of the third quarter, but it sometimes took more time to put together bid packages, etc. He explained that having money to carry forward did not necessarily indicate any lessening in terms of priorities.

The City Manager thought a reasonable approach would be to look at the items on the carry forward list, and a commitment was necessary on the part of the Commission that those dollars would not be reallocated until a report in that regard had been presented. He reiterated that the bottom line in the budget would not be reduced, and the monies could be reallocated for their original purposes. In the alternative, monies could be reallocated to reserves or contingencies if the Commission did not feel the original purposes were valid. Commissioner Smith thought that seemed like a fair compromise.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Katz to set aside the \$1.17 million carry forward monies from the General Fund for future allocations by the City Commission and wait for a report from the City Manager on the individual items he felt should go forward; further, to maintain the CIP reserve rather than moving it to contingencies. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Commissioner Smith was very concerned about the lack of lifeguards in the north beach area. He understood the City Manager had tried to raise County funds for this need, and he suggested exploring the idea of metering the parking spaces along the north part of the beach for non-residents in order to fund lifeguards. Commissioner Smith felt residents should have free parking through some type of resident parking pass, but he thought beach goers from outside the City should help fund lifeguards by paying for parking.

Mayor Naugle believed this suggestion could be implemented outside the budget process by holding a public hearing on the idea of charging non-residents for parking and services. He thought it could take some time, and there could be some legal issues related to Birch State Park, but he felt the City Manager should be given time to work something out. Mayor Naugle expected opposition or concern from residents of the finger streets, and some type of resident permit might be necessary to prevent the area from being inundated with people parking on the swales to avoid meter charges.

The City Manager understood the City Commission's concerns and said he would try to bring a report during the first quarter of the new fiscal year. Commissioner Smith asked that he include a briefing on the smaller figures that did not affect the \$1.17 million carry forward from the General Fund.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to establish the proposed millage rate as follows:

Operating Budget	5.0415
1987/1992/1998 GOB Debt Service	0.2968
1997 GOB Deb Services	0.2281

Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2000/2001. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Commissioner Smith introduced the following ordinance on first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. C-00-50

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CITY OF  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING  
OCTOBER 1, 2000, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2001.

Which ordinance was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Mayor Naugle announced that the second budget hearing to finally adopt the millage rates and the budget would be held at 6:00 P.M. on September 19, 2000.

**2000/2001 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District .....(PH-2)**

The first public hearing was scheduled on the tentative budget of the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2000 and ending September 30, 2001. Mayor Naugle explained that this was the first of two public hearings as required by law on the millage rate for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District budget for fiscal year 2000/2001. The purpose of this hearing was to receive requests and comments regarding the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District's budget and tax levies and to explain the budget and any amendments thereto.

Mr. Terry Sharp, Assistant Director of Finance, stated that for the fiscal year 2000/2001 there was calculated a percentage decrease in the millage rate of 30.7% under the rolled back rate of 1.442 mills which, by State Statute, was characterized as a 30.7% decrease in property taxes. The City had found this rate necessary to fund the proposed budget. He stated that the proposed millage rate of 1 mill included all ad valorem taxes except debt service and would be combined with the City's levy for the State required advertisement concerning the budget and taxes.

Mr. Sharp advised that the budget included \$4,200 for professional services, \$24,400 for security and other services, \$4,200 for vehicle expenses, \$2,500 for repair and maintenance, \$3,500 for general liability insurance, and \$1,200 for contingencies.

Mayor Naugle called for those who wished to be heard. There were none.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to establish the proposed millage rate as follows:

Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District Budget	1.0000
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Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to approve the tentative budget for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District for Fiscal Year 2000/2001. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Mayor Naugle announced that the final hearing to approve the proposed millage rate and budget for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District for Fiscal Year 2000/2001 would be held at 6:00 P.M. on September 19, 2000.

**Fire Rescue Special Assessment ..... (PH-3)**

A public hearing was held to consider a resolution relating to the provision of fire rescue services, facilities and programs in the City; reimposing fire rescue assessments against assessed property located within the City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2000; approving the rate of assessment; approving the assessment roll; and, providing an effective date. Notice of the public hearing was published on August 21, 2000.

Mayor Naugle announced that the purpose of this hearing was to receive requests and comments regarding the City's Fire Rescue Special Assessment.

Mr. Terry Sharp, Assistant Director of Finance, stated that the proposed Fire Rescue Special Assessment rates had been adjusted from last year to reflect the distribution of calls for service to properties for fire service only based on revised square footage tiers. He advised that in general, commercial and institutional properties above the 60,000 square foot tier received a cost increase, while those below that threshold had received a cost reduction. All industrial properties had also received a slight cost increase, as well as all residential properties, from the rate of \$36 to \$38.

Mayor Naugle called for those who wished to be heard. There were none.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson that the public hearing be closed. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.



Commissioner Smith introduced a written resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 00-123

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA; REIMPOSING FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2000; APPROVING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

At 11:28 P.M., Mayor Naugle adjourned the meeting.

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Jim Naugle  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lucy Masliah  
City Clerk